

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN by Sarah Hedgespeth

In 2005, Rush physicians treated players on the World Champion White Sox team so they could claim a place in baseball history. One Rush alumnus is trying to keep that history alive.

Last summer, David Fletcher, MD 1980, received the Hilda Award from the Baseball Reliquary, a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the context of baseball history. The honor is given annually to a fan for his extraordinary passion for and dedication to baseball. Calling Fletcher a fan, however, is almost an insult to his love for the game. Baseball is in his blood. His great-grandfather managed one of the nation's first professional baseball teams, and now Fletcher himself has the pleasure of carving his own small niche in baseball history. Just where that niche will reside is still undecided.

Preserving Baseball History

Fletcher is spearheading efforts to establish the Chicago Baseball Museum. No official site for the museum has been selected yet, but Fletcher has known for some time what the museum will accomplish. It will honor the long history of Chicago's two professional teams, yes, but it will also commemorate some of the city's other contributions to the game: Chicago's role in the Negro Leagues; the Chicago beginnings of the All-American Girl's Baseball League, which was depicted in the film *A League of Their Own*; the 1919 Black



David Fletcher, MD 1980, and his wife, Kimm, wed at home plate of Comiskey Park in 1998.

Sox scandal and the uniquely Chicago sport of 16-inch softball.

"I was once questioned for saying that we could give Cooperstown a run for its money," Fletcher says of a quote that appeared in a 2005 *Chicago Tribune* article about the proposed museum. "I still believe we can."

An early feasibility study Fletcher commissioned supports his claim, estimating that the Chicago Baseball Museum could expect to draw 300,000 visitors a year — maybe even 500,000 with time. (The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., pulls in around 350,000 each year.) If this all seems like an ambitious venture, take into consideration that he also maintains a successful career in occupational medicine and has other "hobbies" just as ambitious as this one.

Observing a Personal Tradition

Fletcher co-founded Decatur-based Safeworks, a private medical practice (www.safeworksillinois.com) that specializes in occupational and environ-

mental medicine, and is director of occupational medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"In medical school, I was part of the Rush Knox College Program, which was trying to create more rural physicians to practice in downstate Illinois," he said. "I got a lot of great, practical community medicine experience in things like substance abuse, internal medicine and geriatrics that I still work with today."

Following graduation, Fletcher moved downstate to practice, returning to Chicago occasionally for business appointments or baseball games. Since Comiskey Park was rebuilt, his visits to Chicago have all been marked by one tradition: a visit to the parking lot of U.S. Cellular Field — where the original home plate of Comiskey still sits — to touch the plate. The site means so much to him that he and his wife, Kimm, were married there in August 1998 with former White Sox player Bill Melton as a witness.

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Pursuing an Important Mission

And it was there at home plate that Fletcher first felt moved to take on someone else's life's mission. George "Buck" Weaver, a member of the 1919 "Black Sox" team, was banned from baseball not for participating in the scandal — he didn't — but for his knowledge of it beforehand. Weaver spent the rest of his life fighting to be reinstated. Fletcher has picked up the fight where Weaver left off.

"In 2003, when they changed the name of Comiskey Park to U.S. Cellular, I realized that I had to do this," Fletcher says. "So I contacted Pat, a niece that Buck Weaver raised as his own daughter, and drove down to Branson, Mo., to see her. She thought I was crazy. She said it couldn't be done, but it's been a mission ever since."

To this end, he has organized a support staff, publicity opportunities during professional baseball games and other events, and a relentless campaign. With

this much drive behind the mission, ClearBuck.com will achieve its goal, Fletcher believes.

"I'm trying to [clear Buck's name] because I feel called to. I feel like there's a reason I'm doing this," Fletcher says. "People are taking notice of what we're working toward."

Fletcher is not just talking about reinstating Buck; he's writing about it too. He has completed a screenplay about the controversy and is represented by a Chicago film agent marketing it to Hollywood.

Despite his involvement with these pursuits, Fletcher stresses that he is, first and foremost, a doctor.

"I love what I'm doing with ClearBuck.com and the Chicago Baseball Museum, but these things are stress management for me. They give me



David Fletcher, MD 1980, and Patricia Anderson, the niece George "Buck" Weaver raised as his own, visiting Buck's grave.

a break from medicine, my primary focus," he says. "What I'm trying to be is the soul, passion and voice for these projects. I'm working on them from vision to implementation and probably even after that."

For more information on the Chicago Baseball Museum or ClearBuck visit their Web sites: www.chicagobaseballmuseum.org and www.clearbuck.com.

HUMANISM SETS TONE FOR 2005 WHITE COAT CEREMONY

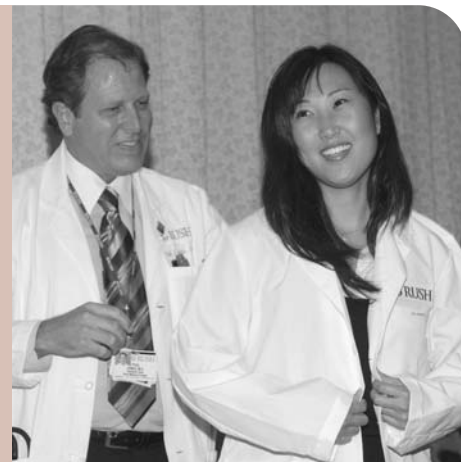
by Sarah Hedgespeth

Prior to the start of the Rush Medical College White Coat Ceremony on September 9, 2005, family and friends of the newest batch of students to enter Rush Medical College waited expectantly with the air of a group still getting used to the idea of having a — or another — doctor in the family. One mother seated toward the back of Room 500 told a fellow parent, "I've heard this ceremony is very emotional, and I forgot my handkerchief! It's a very big day for us. The first doctor in the family."

Last year's ceremony, for the first time in Rush Medical College history, also took time to honor those students who were much closer to their final week at Rush. Twenty M4 students — all selected by their peers as the most humanistic future physicians in the class — and five faculty members were

inducted into the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism Honor Society. This is the first year Rush has been part of this international organization that promotes the understanding and appreciation of humanism as it applies to the science and art of medicine.

With this reminder about humanism on their minds, the class of 2009 capped off their first week at Rush by ceremonially receiving the short white coats they will, as Rush Medical College Dean Thomas A. Deutsch, MD 1979, says, "trade for longer ones in three years and eight months." Slipping into their coats, some students looked solemn, some excited, some terrified and some just struggled to get their arms through the sleeves — but at the end of it, 127 white-coated figures sat where there were none before.



Paul Jones, MD 1983, assistant dean of student services for Rush Medical College, helps M1 Jennifer Kim slip into a white coat at last fall's White Coat Ceremony.

As the newly-coated students stood and filed toward the rooms where they would meet their families for a reception, the mother toward the back affirmed, "I really could have used that handkerchief."

ECKENFELS LEAVES A LEGACY OF SOCIAL MEDICINE

by Sean Carr and Sarah Hedgespeth

The Rush Community Service Initiatives Program (RCSIP), an assortment of both clinical and non-clinical projects, gives students an opportunity to meet the health care needs of Chicago's underserved communities in real life settings with Rush faculty overseeing medical projects. Most amazing of all, RCSIP projects are initiated, organized and run by students with the RCSIP office providing administrative and organizational support.

What's more, RCSIP is completely voluntary — students receive no academic credit for their participation — and yet over 85 percent of RMC students volunteer in RCSIP activities during their medical education.

So how has a voluntary program that was established just 15 years ago already become ingrained in the Rush student experience? According to the man largely responsible for its conception, RCSIP is so popular because it mirrors the socially responsible medicine that Rush students want to experience.

The Man Behind RCSIP

When Edward J. Eckenfels, professor emeritus, former associate chairman of preventive medicine, and director of RCSIP, came to Rush Medical College in 1969 as special assistant to then Dean Mark Lepper, MD, he got a crash course in community medicine.

"Lepper believed that physicians should provide health care to the poor, not as a good deed, but because it is their job," Eckenfels said. "Back in the 1970s, few people were thinking this way."

Eckenfels noticed, in studies that he and his colleagues conducted in the 1980s, that a

large number of medical students became clinically depressed as their medical education progressed. These students were losing sight of the altruism that had motivated them to become doctors in the first place.

"Medical students get a bad rap for being materialistic," he says. "But I think most of them go to medical school not because they want to get rich, but because they want to help people."

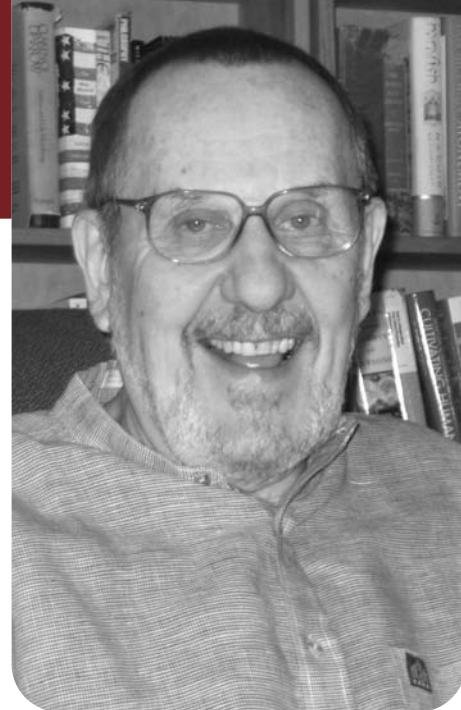
Eckenfels felt strongly that the best way to put students in touch with the human side of medicine was to connect them with the people who need their help the most. So, in 1991, the Rush Community Service Initiatives Program was born. And help people it did.

Positive Outcomes

Over the program's first eight years, student participants in RCSIP treated more than 18,000 patients through clinics and health fairs and brought AIDS education to Chicago public schools and tutoring to children at the Henry Horner housing project, among other outreach activities.

Eckenfels emphasizes that RCSIP achieves something that classroom and clinical learning experiences cannot. It exposes students to diverse populations and settings, helping them prepare for practice in the communities where they will likely serve as health care providers. And its approach is something that was new not just to Rush, but to medical education as a whole.

"Medical schools traditionally had been allowed to educate socially inadequate students, those who know everything about science but not much else. It's not just the acquisition of knowledge that's important — it's personal growth and development," he says. "Rush students don't participate in these projects because it's required or because it gets them better grades. They do it because it's what they want for themselves and for the community."



Edward J. Eckenfels, professor emeritus, has worked tirelessly to improve the medical school experience for students.

RCSIP's Lasting Impact

Over the years, Eckenfels has spread the RCSIP gospel in journal articles and in more than 75 presentations around the world. Since his retirement from Rush in 1999, Eckenfels has been at work on a book about RCSIP. In the "most incredible" chapter, as he calls it, 10 students who have taken part in the program tell their stories.

One former student transformed his childhood interest in magic into a novel way to teach AIDS prevention to pre-teen kids and now treats post-traumatic stress disease in children. Another RCSIP participant went on to find rewarding work at a clinic in southern California delivering babies for indigent women migrants. Through these inspiring stories, Eckenfels relates the human element that participation in RCSIP brings to students' education.

"Community service makes them more compassionate, more sensitive to community problems," Eckenfels says. "You can't learn compassion in a lecture hall and you won't be tested for it on a certification exam. But I truly believe that the best physicians are not just knowledgeable and skilled — they are also sensitive and caring."

FOR YOUR PATIENTS

A sampling of clinical trials now under way at Rush University Medical Center. For a complete listing, click the "Clinical Trials" link at www.rush.edu. Bookmark the site today and keep it in mind for your patients.

PEDIATRIC GROWTH STUDY

Dr. Richard Levy in the Department of Pediatrics is participating in a trial for Recombinant Human Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 Treatment of Short Stature Associated with Primary IGF-1 Deficiency.

The purpose of this trial is to determine whether daily administration of IGF-1 at concentrated controlled dosages will result in growth comparable to twice daily administration of previous studies. Nationwide, 75-90 subjects will be recruited. At Rush University, we expect to recruit approximately 4-6 subjects.

In order to participate, participant must:

- Be prepubertal
- Have low IGF-1 levels
- Have normal Growth Hormone (GH) Stimulation Testing
- Have short stature defined as $<-2SD$ (standard deviations) which is $< 3rd$ percentile

Participants will be excluded if they:

- Have previously used GH, Lupron or sex steroids
- Have a chronic illness such as diabetes, cystic fibrosis, osteodystrophies, etc.
- Have a chromosomal disorder such as Down Syndrome, Turner Syndrome, etc.
- Have a dysmorphic syndrome such as Prader-Willi Syndrome, Russell-Silver Syndrome, Noonan Syndrome, etc.
- Have therapy with steroids, ADD drugs (Ritalin, etc), or have been exposed to therapeutic spinal irradiation
- Have an active malignancy or previous intracranial tumor or a syndrome predisposing to malignant tumors (e.g. Bloom, Fanconi, etc.)

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Dr. Richard Levy at (312) 942-8989.

KNEE, HIP OR CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN STUDY

Dr. Joel Block in the Department of Rheumatology is recruiting participants for a phase 3, open-label study in the treatment of moderate to severe chronic non-malignant pain.

All participants will receive the same medication. There is no placebo. Participants will be evaluated for a primary diagnosis of OA of the knee, hip or chronic low back pain.

The participation in the study will be approximately 20 visits in a 60 week period.

A patient will be eligible to participate in this study if certain criteria are met:

- Must be 21 to 75 years old
- OA of the hip or knee
- Low back pain for more than 3 months
- Currently taking analgesic for OA pain or chronic low back pain

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Sharon Lariosa, MD, at (312) 942-2167.

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD) STUDY

Dr. James Moy in the Section of Allergy & Immunology is participating in an efficacy and safety study of an investigational drug in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

The goal of the study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a combination investigational drug for maintenance treatment. The study involves 8 clinic visits over a period of 12 months.

A patient will be eligible to participate in this study if certain criteria are met:

- Over 40 years of age
- Clinical diagnosis of COPD with symptoms for more than 2 years
- Current or previous smoker

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Rahab Gandy at (312) 563-2647.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Richard E. Melcher, MD 1975
James W. Mitchell, MD 1983
Scott Rubinstein, MD 1983

STUDENT BEAT

A taste of what's happening in and around Rush Medical College.

M3s GET A "CRASH" COURSE

Last year, third-year medical students at Rush were given the option of participating in a new orientation course, Clinical Resources and Skills for the Hospital, or CRASH, to help them transition from classroom learning to the new experience of learning in a clinical setting.

"The first two years of students' Rush education is spent in a classroom setting, not unlike their undergraduate experiences. The courses are very objective and textbook-based. The transition to clinical curriculum during their third year can be very stressful. The expectations and things students are graded on are different," says Paul Jones, MD 1983, assistant dean of student services. "The CRASH course is designed to give them the skills they'll need to be successful in this new setting."

CRASH is a one-week, intensive orientation course bringing together skills like starting an IV, reading EKGs and performing CPR, so that students are refreshed on these procedures and prepared to build on them. The course was voluntary in 2005, but more than 90 percent of third-year students opted to enroll.

"We've gotten positive feedback from the students," Jones says. "Faculty have definitely noticed improvement in students' comfort

level. Students who took the course seem less apprehensive and need less coaching in their early clerkships."

This year's CRASH course will be offered in June and will be mandatory for all third-year students.

REVISIONS TO THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR CURRICULUM

Curriculum for M3s and M4s has been revised so students may focus on career exploration and electives in their fourth year.

"We condensed the mandatory curriculum, which used to extend into a student's fourth year, so it fits into the third year. This gives students six more weeks of elective time. They complete all their mandatory coursework in the third year, and have time in the fourth year for career exploration," Jones says.

In addition, the capstone course has been reorganized. The course now brings a refresher from the preclinical years into the fourth year to reorient that educational background to a clinical setting.

"It shows students how the preclinical and clinical years come together, how they're related," Jones says.

This revised capstone course will be a requirement for rising fourth-year students.

RU CARING HEALTH FAIR

RU Caring, a university-wide interdisciplinary volunteer effort at Rush University, will hold a Spring Into Fitness health fair at Chicago's United Center on Saturday, May 20th. The Salvation Army is partnering with RU Caring to transport the uninsured, unemployed or underemployed to the United Center, where RU Caring volunteers will perform a variety of health screenings and services. The State of Illinois will also offer services, such as job training information, job placement, DCFS and housing assistance.

More than 300 students volunteered last year. This year, RU Caring hopes to attract at least 600 volunteers, who will see more than 1,000 patients throughout the day. And you don't have to be a student to volunteer. RUCaring welcomes any volunteer who is associated with Rush University Medical Center, including alumni. For more information on the program, or to sign up to volunteer for the health fair, visit www.RUCaring.rmstudents.com.

CME BRIEFS

COMPLICATIONS OF NRTI THERAPY: RENAL AND HEPATIC TOXICITIES

Internet

Expiration Date: November 30, 2006

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

CME: 1 credit hour

Location: www.cchiv.com

Contact: Lawrence Roth

HLR Communications

630 Brooker Creek Boulevard

Suite 305

Oldsmar, FL 34677

lroth@hlrcommunications.com

Phone: (813) 891-6999

TERRORISM AND DISASTER: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW

Internet

Expiration Date: August 2007

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases & Department of Psychiatry

CME: 1 credit per case (total 14 credits)

Location: www.medscape.com

Contact: Gillian Gibbs

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness

1653 West Congress Parkway

Suite 177 Murdock

Chicago, IL 60612

Gillian_Gibbs@rush.edu

Phone: (312) 563-3820 or (312) 942-4021

CME credit hours free to RMC alumni. For more CME opportunities, visit www.rush.edu/professionals/cme.

CLASS NOTES

1940s

BLAKE TALBOT, MD 1941, writes that he recently celebrated his 90th birthday with more than 150 friends.

ANDREW K. BUTLER, MD 1942, writes that, at the age of 91, he still has fond memories of Presbyterian and Cook County Hospitals and the great faculty he had at Rush. He's wondering how many Rush 1s are still out there. If you'd like to get in touch with him — or anyone from *Class Notes* — please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-2569.

1970s

MARDGE COHEN, MD 1976, began her work with Rwandan HIV and AIDS patients in 2004. She and a small group of American and Rwandan doctors, nurses and mental-health experts opened a clinic in Kigali for these patients, many of whom are female survivors of the 1994 mass genocide and attacks on the Tutsi population by the then-Hutu government. According to a May 2005 *Chicago Tribune Magazine* article on Cohen's work in Rwanda, as many as 120,000 women and girls were infected with HIV when raped by the same militia men who killed 800,000 people in the attacks. The article said that in its first 10 months of operation, Cohen's clinic treated 900 patients, 400 of whom had been started on antiretroviral medication. Cohen is also principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health-sponsored study of 800 Rwandan women with HIV that will monitor their health and work toward more effective treatments for this population. For more information on these efforts, visit www.crossroadsfund.org.

1980s

BARBARA B. LOEB, MD 1980, was recently voted President Elect of the Medical Staff at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downer's Grove, Ill. Loeb has been a practicing internist at the hospital for more than 22 years since completing her residency in internal medicine at Loyola University Medical Center. She more recently received her MBA from Benedictine University. She is board

certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine and has served in numerous leadership roles during her years at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital.

MADELEINE NEEMS, MD 1980, now has her own internal medicine practice near her home in Highland Park, Ill. She used to be part of a large group practice before taking time off to spend with her three daughters. Her oldest daughter, Rachel, is a second-year medical student at Rush Medical College, her middle is a sophomore in college and her youngest is a junior in high school.

GLEN SOLOMON, MD 1980, has been chair of the Department of Medicine at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill., since 2003. He also heads the hospital's internal medicine residency program, which has 67 residents and 15 fellows. Prior to his arrival at Lutheran General, Solomon was with Merck for five years and at the Cleveland Clinic before that. He completed his residency in the Air Force.

FRED VOLKMAN, MD 1981, is chief medical officer for the Care Management Division of Fiserv Healthcare. He is in the process of moving to Dallas, Texas.

JAMES W. MITCHELL, MD 1983, is a pediatrician affiliated with University of Chicago Hospitals and specializes in asthma and ADHD. Mitchell and his wife look forward to celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in July 2006. They have two children, one in high school and one in college. Mitchell is a member of the executive council of the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College.

JUDY SHLAY, MD 1983, recently earned the 2005 Betty Bernard Emerging Leader Award, named after the former president of AT&T, from the Denver-based Women's Vision Foundation. Shlay was acknowledged as a tireless advocate for young women, a team leader of the La Mariposa Family Health Center and as a mentor to staff. She was also recognized for her role as a physician at Denver Public Health, where she heads an innovative teen clinic. Shlay led the effort to bring additional state funding to support the health of adolescents who engage in high-risk behavior.

ALAN KAPLAN, MD 1985, vice president and chief medical officer for Edward Hospital and Health Services in Naperville, Ill., has been named a fellow of the American College of Physician Executives. Kaplan has been at Edward for 10 years and earned his master's of medical management degree from Carnegie Mellon University in 2000.

NICHOLAS RECCHIA, MD 1987, was the subject of a story in the *Melrose Park Herald* in June 2005. The article featured the unusual décor in his Franklin Park, Ill., practice, Recchia's Family Healthcare Center. In an effort to lift patients' spirits, Recchia has a life-sized cardboard standup of the Three Stooges displayed in one examining room and prints of the Stooges on hallway and office walls. He told the *Herald*, "We just like to make people as comfortable as possible when they come here. A medical environment can be high stress, so whatever you can do to reduce that feeling is a good thing."

1990s

MARSHA NOVICK, MD 1995, wrote in August that she, her husband and their two young sons moved to Lebanon, Pa., where her husband, John Sheffield, MD, had accepted a faculty position at the Family Practice Residency Program at Good Samaritan Hospital, affiliated with Penn State University. Prior to their move, Novick closed the bariatric practice she had opened in January 2004 to help patients lose weight, but planned to start up a similar practice near her new home once she was settled in.

TRISH PALMER, MD 1995, has joined Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush. Her new practice concentrates in the areas of sports medicine and women's sports medicine. Prior to joining Midwest Orthopaedics, Palmer taught in the residency program and cared for patients within the Department of Family and Preventative Medicine at The Orthopedic Specialty Hospital, affiliated with the University of Utah.

HAROLD PINE, MD 1995, has spent the past several years studying, working in and exploring 36 countries on six continents. His adventures included climbing 10 mountains, 11 rafting trips, 10 treks and more than 100

REUNION WRAPUP

BIG TURNOUT FOR REUNION 2005

scuba dives in countries like Vietnam, Nepal, Mexico, New Zealand, Thailand and Japan. He and his fiancée, Allison Martin, a pediatric speech pathologist, share passions for adventure, travel and children. The couple recently returned to Chapel Hill, N.C., where they are opening their own private practice.

DEBRA JACKOWNIAK SCARLETT, MD 1999, completed her residency in dermatology at University of Michigan. She is currently on staff at Washington University in St. Louis, where her husband, Jeremy, is completing his residency in anesthesiology. They and their twins, Lauren and Ryan, who were born on September 13, 2005, live in St. Louis.

2000s

STEVEN J. LEWIS, MD 2001, completed a family medicine residency at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale in 2004, and opened a new practice with one of his fellow residents in October 2004. He reports that their patient volume is growing, and they are adapting well to being business owners and practicing in a community setting instead of an academic one. Lewis and his wife, Elaine, have two young twin boys, Grant and Burns, and live in Scottsdale, Ariz.

ANN MITRAKUL, MD 2001, has joined Corwin Medical Care in Plainfield, Ill., as a family practice physician with a special interest in women's health and patient empowerment. In addition to being a board-certified family practitioner, Mitrakul is a licensed clinical social worker.

HOUSE STAFF

PRATHIMA SETTY, MD, has joined the department of obstetrics and gynecology of the Hammond Clinic. Setty is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed an internship at Rush and her residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She will practice at the Family Wellness Center in Munster, Ind.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANCIS WYATT HUSTON, MD 1933, of Winchester, Kan.; Feb. 13, 1997

CHARLES MELVIN GRACE, MD 1941, of Edmonds, Wash.; Jan. 13, 2005

MARK A. MOYER, MD 1975, of Rockford, Ill.

The 2005 Rush Medical College Reunion was packed. On October 15, more than 100 alumni and guests filled the Plaza Club atop the Prudential Building (observing its own 50th anniversary in 2005).

The evening's agenda was also bursting at the seams. Thomas A. Deutsch, MD 1979, dean of Rush Medical College, and Larry J. Goodman, MD, president and CEO of Rush University Medical Center, were on hand to update everyone on their alma mater and to offer a glimpse of the Medical Center's plans for the future, and the 2005 distinguished alumnus, Glen O. Gabbard, MD 1975, rounded out the schedule with his talk "The Perils of Perfectionism and the Troubled Physician." But there was still plenty of time for catching up, as Susan Honeycutt Clark, MD, and May Khadem, MD, both 1975, (lower right), make clear.

As you may have noticed, we have moved to a new reunion schedule. The results of this change have been positive. By hosting reunion every two years — with twice as many classes — alumni benefit from reunions that are twice the size. Biennial reunions have meant more alumni in attendance and have also enabled the Office of Alumni Relations to expand their events calendar.

We have been able to bring you more receptions at professional receptions, including the American College of Physicians, the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Ophthalmologists. We have also brought you more regional events hosted by alumni, like last summer's successful event for internists, chief residents and internal medicine alumni in honor of Stu Levin, MD, at the home of Harold Kessler, MD, 1974. An expanded events calendar has enabled even those alumni who cannot make it to Chicago for Reunion to stay connected and engaged with the Medical College and fellow alumni.

We hope to have even more events in the Chicago area and around the country. If you are interested in hosting an event in your area, please contact Alysha Comstock, associate director of Alumni Relations, at (312) 942-7227 or Alysha_Comstock@rush.edu.



Back row: Maung Tin, MD, James Tess, MD, Michael Springer, MD; front row: Mary Anne de Paz, MD, Daniel Troy, MD, and Kathryn Yelen Troy, MD, all class of 1995, catch up on all that has happened in the past 10 years.



Susan Honeycutt Clark, MD, and May Khadem, MD, both class of 1975, embrace at Reunion. It has been 30 years since they met at Rush.

NEXT REUNION: FALL 2007

Classes of 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 2001 and 2002 — this is your year!

Date and location to be announced.

If you are a class agent, or would like to help contact classmates in preparation for Reunion, contact Associate Director of Alumni Relations Alysha Comstock at (312) 942-7227 or Alysha_Comstock@rush.edu.

We'll see you in 2007!



SEEING DOUBLE

During his 17 years as chairman of ophthalmology, William E. Deutsch, MD, built a nationally recognized residency program within the department. Some former residents and fellows of Rush University Medical Center's Department of Ophthalmology honored the achievements of their teacher and mentor by commissioning a portrait of Deutsch, shown here next to the portrait's subject, for the department. Many of them, including Jonathan Rubenstein, MD 1981, and Jack Cohen, MD 1990, who led the effort, were present for the portrait's unveiling at the opening of the recently expanded Joseph and Helen Regenstein Eye Center at Rush on October 16, 2005. The event was held in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Annual Meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send your news — personal and professional — to *Rush MD*, c/o The Alumni Association of Rush Medical College, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 West Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612 or via e-mail to alumni@rush.edu.

Name (please print)

Class of

Address

City

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E-mail address

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Your classmates want to know

News

WHERE ARE YOU?

We're compiling an e-mail database that will help us improve our communications with alumni. So please be sure to include your e-mail address with your news or just drop us a quick line at alumni@rush.edu.

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MEDICAL STUDENT EXPLORES CAREER IN RESEARCH

by Lisa Aaronson

When Debra Weese-Mayer, MD, professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric respiratory medicine, gets holiday cards from her patients she enjoys seeing the photos chronicle how they grow over the years. But in some of those photos, she noticed a very interesting pattern of similarities in the facial features of children who share the same disorder. This discovery launched an exciting research opportunity for one Rush Medical College student.

Through the Dean's Summer Research Fellowship, medical student Emily Todd hoped to determine whether a career in research would be a good fit. She never would have guessed that her work over that summer would result in a paper published in *Pediatric Research* or an award for outstanding medical student research from the Research Forum. But Dr. Weese-Mayer's discovery led Todd down an unexpected and exciting new path.

Weese-Mayer's research on congenital central hypoventilation syndrome



Emily Todd, Rush Medical College student

(CCHS), an autonomic nervous system dysfunction characterized by hypoventilation, had never considered distinct facial patterns as a marker. Working closely with Weese-Mayer, Todd focused her efforts on developing a way to recognize facial features as a screening tool for the disease.

"Kids with CCHS are not able to sense carbon dioxide properly. Without intervention, these kids could die because they do not get enough oxygen to their brains. I am very committed to this research because we are defining another way to recognize this disease — and it could save lives," Todd said.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted a career in research, and I had no experience with it at that point. The Dean's Summer Research Fellowship presented an opportunity to learn how to do research, get involved with a faculty member and help me more clearly

define my career goals. Now I know — I really enjoy it," she said.

Sponsored by the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College and the Office of the Dean, the Dean's Summer Research Fellowship provides medical students between the M1 and M2 years with \$3,000 to carry out either research with a Rush faculty member or a community service project.

Todd's work with Weese-Mayer has continued beyond her fellowship, and she is currently studying fingerprint patterns as another indicator of the disease. Her first paper was published in the January 2006 issue of *Pediatric Research*, and her expanded research into fingerprints has landed her in a journal for the second time. Todd's paper has been accepted and will be published in an upcoming issue of *Pediatrics*.

It seems that a career in research suits Emily Todd just fine.

ALUMNA THANKS RUSH FOR TAKING A CHANCE by Sarah Hedgespeth

After spending more than a decade in nursing, Beatrice Pitcher, MD 1976, was ready to pursue a new chapter in her life — a career in medicine. But, then 38 years old, she wondered what school would possibly take a chance on a student her age. One medical school did, and now Pitcher is repaying that generosity.

When Pitcher retired from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston a few years ago, her patients helped fund an endowment in her honor. In fact, patients still stop her on the street to express their appreciation for the care they received. "A patient I haven't seen in many years approached me the other day just to say 'thank you,'" she said.

But this beloved physician was almost unable to become a doctor in the first place. By the early 1970s, she had earned success as a nurse anesthetist, returned to school at the age of 34 to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and was highly respected by everyone who'd worked with her. Yet, of the 25 medical schools to which Pitcher applied, Rush was the only one to accept her.

"Rush Medical College was fairly progressive in the 1970s. There were six or seven people in my class who were in their 30s at a time when students of that age were not considered desirable candidates," Pitcher said. "What's more, I had 'another career.' Nurses entering medical school also were not very well accepted at that time."

Pitcher has always felt grateful for the opportunity Rush gave her to pursue obstetrics. A longtime annual donor and member of the Benjamin Rush Society,

Pitcher decided in 2004 to name Rush Medical College in her will, making her a member of the Rush Heritage Society as well. For Pitcher, a bequest to Rush was a foregone conclusion.

"Without Rush, I wouldn't have had any money to leave to anyone," she said.

After giving it some serious consideration, Pitcher decided a bequest to Rush was the best way to ensure that her long-term philanthropic objectives would be fulfilled. She finds great comfort in the fact that the institution that made her dreams come true will put her money to good use when she no longer needs it.

"Thanks to my Rush education, I've had a wonderful career. I spent 21 years in obstetrics and gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and I loved it. I always felt like I was doing what I was supposed to be doing," she said. "I am very grateful to Rush for giving me an opportunity when no one else was willing to do so. It is important to me to give something back."

For more information about making a gift to benefit Rush Medical College, contact MaryPat Mauro, senior director of alumni relations, at (312) 942-7165 or MaryPat_Mauro@rush.edu.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR RUSH THROUGH YOUR WILL OR TRUST

For generations, bequests of all sizes have been instrumental in supporting our mission of fostering excellence in health care education, medical research and quality patient care.

You, too, can invest in the Medical Center's future by including a bequest for Rush in your estate plans, or by adding a simple, inexpensive codicil to an existing will or trust.

For more information on planned giving options at Rush, please contact:

Vicki J. Woodward
Director of Planned Giving
Rush University Medical Center
Office of Philanthropy
1700 West Van Buren, Suite #250
Chicago, IL 60612-3244
(312) 942-6954 [Phone]
(312) 942-5581 [Fax]
vicki_j_woodward@rush.edu

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ENDOWED CHAIR HONORS A MENTOR, HELPS STUDENTS

by Sarah Hedgespeth



For nearly 40 years, Stuart Levin, MD, Chairperson of Internal Medicine at Rush University Medical Center, has mentored Rush medical students. And as a former head of the residency program, he trained physicians who went on to provide care in Chicago, across Illinois and around the country.

“Bringing continued study of the medical literature to bear on caring for every patient we see is something we took away from Rush and now practice every day. The clinical-academic environment that Dr. Levin created has been the constant in this approach for us and many others,” said Marie Brown, MD 1979, and her husband Ted Feldman, MD, of their experience in Rush’s residency program.

A group of Dr. Levin’s colleagues and former students have decided to

Stuart Levin, MD, Chairperson of Internal Medicine at Rush, has mentored, taught and inspired Rush medical students and residents for nearly 40 years.

honor him — while he’s still practicing — the best way they know how: giving scholarship support to current and future Rush medical students.

“I think it’s a superb idea and a well-deserved tribute to an individual who likely has been the greatest teacher, motivator and mentor of trainees in our departments of internal medicine and section of infectious disease over the last 40 years,” said Alan Harris, MD, current director of the medical residency program and an epidemiologist in the RUMC section of infectious disease.

All 13 physicians in the Infectious Disease Specialists practice, including Harris, were trained by Levin. The group made a major leadership gift to what was then the Levin scholarship during its infancy.

In fact, because of a large outpouring of early support from those who have worked with and learned from Levin, what was originally slated to be an endowed scholarship has been upgraded to the Stuart Levin, MD, Endowed Chair. As of July 2006, friends and colleagues of Levin had contributed nearly \$460,000 to the Levin Chair. All income from the Levin Chair will go toward scholarships for students of Rush Medical College.

The average student from the class of 2006 graduated owing \$155,000, not counting any remaining undergraduate debt. This figure is higher

than the national average, despite the fact that Rush’s tuition is in line with that of comparable private medical colleges.

“Because Rush Medical College reopened its doors only 35 years ago, its scholarship base — particularly its endowment — is still relatively low compared to that of older private medical schools. Increasing the amount of scholarship dollars available to current students is a high priority, so that our students do not have to borrow extraordinary amounts of money during medical school,” said Dean Thomas A. Deutsch, MD 1979.

Gifts to the Levin Endowed Chair support a larger effort — part of the \$300 million Campaign for Rush University Medical Center — to increase Rush University’s scholarship endowment by \$20 million over the next five years. An enhanced endowment will increase Rush’s ability to compete for top students and lighten the load for future graduates as they embark on their medical careers.

“The training experience we had in Internal Medicine at Rush defined the way we both practice medicine more than any other part of our medical education,” said Brown of her and Feldman’s training under Levin. “We hope our support for the Levin Chair will create the same kind of experience for people in training today.”

For more information or to make a gift to the Levin Chair, contact MaryPat Mauro at (312) 942-7165, or return your gift using the enclosed envelope.

FOR YOUR PATIENTS

A sampling of clinical trials now under way at Rush University Medical Center. For a complete listing, click the "Clinical Trials" link at www.rush.edu. Bookmark the site today, and keep it in mind for your patients.

EARLY STAGE BREAST CANCER STUDY

Dr. Adam Dickler in the Department of Radiation Oncology is participating in a study to evaluate the safety and performance of the Axxent™ Electronic Brachytherapy System in women with resected, early stage breast cancer.

Participants must:

- Be at least 50 years of age
- Have a tumor with T1, NO, MO- (AJCC classification)
- Have invasive ductal carcinoma or ductal carcinoma in situ
- Have negative microscopic surgical margins of at least 1mm in all directions
- Have adequate skin spacing between balloon surface and surface of the skin (>7mm)

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Adam Dickler, MD, at (312) 942-5751.

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS STUDY

The Section of Rheumatology is participating in a phase III, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in patients with moderate, active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) despite maintenance corticosteroids and other standard medications for SLE.

Flares of SLE may occur causing a wide range of symptoms, disease activity and damaging effects on many organs and body systems.

This study will be conducted over a 48-week period, with each patient completing three consecutive 12-week treatment cycles.

Patients must be on a stable dose regimen of prednisone 7.5-20mg/day for at least four weeks and a stable regimen of an immunosuppressive for at least eight weeks or an antimalarial for at least 12 weeks.

Participants must be:

- At least 18 years of age
- Diagnosed with SLE for at least six months

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Sharon Lariosa, MD, at (312) 942-2167.

HIV AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL STUDY

Rush University College of Nursing is participating in a study of a dietary supplement to treat high cholesterol in persons with HIV infection.

High cholesterol levels are common in people with HIV infection. However, conventional cholesterol-lowering medications may have harmful side effects when given to HIV-infected people. In this study, the safety and effectiveness of a dietary supplement derived from sugar cane that has cholesterol-lowering properties will be evaluated in regard to lowering cholesterol levels in people with HIV infection.

Participants must:

- Be HIV infected and take medications for HIV infection
- Have high cholesterol or triglycerides
- Be between the ages of 18 and 60

Participants will be excluded if they:

- Have AIDS
- Are currently taking lipid-lowering medications
- Have liver or kidney disease
- Have a bleeding disorder

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

For more information, please contact Barbara Swanson, DNSc, RN, at (312) 942-8977.

NEWS BRIEFS

A taste of what's happening in and around Rush Medical College.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FEATURES RUSH ANATOMY STUDENTS

Over the 2005-2006 school year, *Chicago Tribune* photographer Charles Osgood followed Rush's first-year medical students through their lessons in Rush's anatomy lab. He spoke with professors and students about the experience, monitored their progress in the lab and documented the annual memorial service given by M2s for those men and women who donated their bodies to be studied. To view this inspiring video, see the link on the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College homepage, <http://www.rush.edu/MedicalCollegeAlum>.

ALUMNI PRIVILEGES IN RUSH'S SIMULATION LAB

The Rush University Simulation Laboratory (RUSL), established in 2002 thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Alverin M. Cornell, is a state-of-the-art simulation training center equipped with life-sized, computer controlled adult, child and baby patient simulators that enable all levels of health care providers to learn medical procedures in a highly realistic

environment. RUSL also has skill trainers for airway and invasive line placement. But these simulators and trainers aren't just for students — **alumni are welcome to use the simulation laboratory**. Special rates can be arranged for clinical refreshers in all primary and acute care specialties. Come alone or bring your team. Learn more at the RUSL Web site <http://www.rushu.rush.edu/rusl/>. To review available time slots or to schedule a tour, contact the patient simulation technician at (312) 942-2576.

DISPLAY FEATURES RUSH STUDENT ARTISTS

An April *New York Times* article revealed a national trend in medical schools offering students more outlets in the arts and humanities. Rush has long been ahead of that curve. For years, Rush has devoted one of its monthly TGIF student gatherings each year to the exhibition of student art. In 2005, Rush students serving on the Committee for Student Affairs recommended an addition to the halls of the Armour Academic Facility that celebrates Rush's student artists 365 days a year. This spring,

a student art display case was installed on the fourth floor of Armour to showcase photos and artwork created by Rush students. Jill Gabbert, director of student affairs for Rush University, expects each exhibit to be displayed for two to four weeks and says student response has already been very positive. "Many students are surprised that their classmates have that talent and the time to devote to something like this, but students do what they need to take care of themselves," she said.

REFERRING PATIENTS NOW EASIER THAN EVER

Are you referring some of your patients to Rush University Medical Center? Rush Patient Special Services office can do most of the legwork. RPSS assists referring physicians with coordinating timely appointments for their patients, arranging for transportation and accommodations for out-of-town patients, expediting patient registration and communicating necessary information to referred patients prior to their appointments. Take advantage of this simplified referral process or learn more by calling RPSS at (312) 942-5050.

CME BRIEFS

SPECIAL MEDICAL STAFF MEETING: FUTURE SHOCK: THE DOCTOR HAS NO CLOTHES — OUTCOME MEASURES, CME, PUBLIC REPORTING AND YOU

October 12, 2006

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Disease

Location: Rush University Medical Center
Searle Conference Center
1725 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois

CME: 2 credit hours

Contact: Harold A. Kessler, MD
Office of Continuing Medical Education
CME_info@rush.edu

PROTEASE INHIBITORS AND TOLERABILITY: PERSPECTIVES FOR SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF THE TREATMENT-NAÏVE PATIENT

Internet

Expiration Date: May 15, 2007

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Disease

Location: www.clinicalcareoptions.com

CME: 1.5 credit hours

Contact: Jessica Bair
Discovery Institute of Medical Education
35 West Wacker
Chicago, Illinois
Jessica.Bair@dimeded.org
Phone: (312) 553-8032

CME credit hours free to RMC alumni. For more CME opportunities, visit www.rush.edu/professionals/cme.

CLASS NOTES

NEIL CALMAN, MD 1975, received the 2006 Physician's Information Technology Leadership Award, presented by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society at their annual conference in San Diego last February. As president and CEO of the Institute for Urban Family Health in New York City, Calman implemented Epic, a fully integrated electronic health record, across the institute's network of ambulatory care sites. This award recognizes his efforts to improve the quality of patient care through implementation of advanced technology.

PAUL KARAZIJA, MD 1987, is medical director for care management at Medica, a 1.3 million member health plan based out of Minneapolis.

STEVEN MARK MALKIN, MD 1987, was elected vice president of the Illinois State Medical Society during its annual meeting held in Oak Brook, Ill., in April. Malkin specializes in internal medicine and serves on the medical staffs at Alexian Brothers Medical Center and Northwest Community Hospital. He is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians and president of the Chicago Medical Society.

DEVON ELIZABETH THOMPSON EBBING, MD 2002, and her husband, **JONATHON EBBING, MD 2002**, are relocating to Vancouver, Wash. Devon completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Virginia in 2005. She spent the past year working in general medicine at the University of Virginia Student Health Clinic. After their move, Devon will be joining The Vancouver Clinic as a pediatrician. Jonathan completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Virginia in June 2006. He has taken a position as an outpatient psychiatrist with Northwest Permanente in Longview, Wash. They have a son, A.J., who was born August 2, 2004, and wrote that they were expecting a daughter in late summer 2006.

IN MEMORIAM

RYLAND MARCUS JACOBUS, MD 1940, of Seattle, Wash.; Jan. 2004.

SAVE THE DATE

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE BIENNIAL REUNION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2007

The Rush Medical College Reunion is now being held every two years. On November 3, 2007, we will honor those who graduated in 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 2001 and 2002.

The Office of Alumni Relations is planning a day of fun, information and opportunity to reconnect with classmates — tentative activities include a distinguished alumna lecture, cocktail reception and dinner.

Our 2007 Distinguished Alumna is Julie Ann Freischlag, MD, class of 1980. Dr. Freischlag is the William Stewart Halsted Professor of Surgery, chair of the Department of Surgery and surgeon in chief at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

For additional information please contact Alysha Comstock, associate director of alumni relations at (312) 942-7227 or Alysha_Comstock@rush.edu.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Your classmates want to know

Please send your news — personal and professional — to *Rush MD*, c/o The Alumni Association of Rush Medical College, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 West Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612 or via e-mail to alumni@rush.edu.

Name (please print)

Class of

Address

City

State

Zip

☐ Home

☐ Office

☐ New

E-mail address

News

WHERE ARE YOU?

We're compiling an e-mail database that will help us improve our communications with alumni. So please be sure to include your e-mail address with your news or just drop us a quick line at alumni@rush.edu.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a moment to fill out this survey and tell us what you think about *Rush MD*.

Year graduated: _____

What do you like best about *Rush MD*?

What do you like least about *Rush MD*?

Would you like to see *Rush MD* (choose one):

- ☐ Less often
☐ More often
☐ Current frequency is fine

Do you feel that *Rush MD* is (choose one):

- ☐ Too long
☐ Too brief
☐ Just right

Which section of *Rush MD* do you find most interesting?

- ☐ Alumni profiles
☐ Faculty profiles
☐ Student profiles
☐ I don't read any of them

Do you use the clinical trials section?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you use the CME briefs section?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

What kind of information would you like to see in future issues of *Rush MD*?

Where else do you get your information on RUSH?

Share your comments:

Thank you for taking the time to tell us how *Rush MD* can be more valuable — your feedback is very important to us. Please either send this survey back to us in the enclosed envelope or fax it to (312) 942-5581. You may also take this survey online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=475642518103>

Your feedback is for internal evaluation purposes only and will never be shared with other parties. *Thank you.*

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